

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /082 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4438
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY
CINCEUR PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0731

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY

SUBJ: QADHAFI COMMENTS ON LIBYAN-TUNISIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF
DISPUTE.

1. QADHAFI TOOK OCCASSION OF 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF
GARADABIA (NEAR SIRTE WHERE LIBYAN PATRIOTS ALLEGEDLY
DEFEATED SUPERIOR ITALIAN FORCE) TO REITERATE IN FIRM BUT
MODERATE TONE LIBYA GOVERNMENT POSITION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF.
IN ESSENCE HE REPEATED POINTS MADE TO TRIPOLI MISSION CHIEFS
MAY 30 (TRIPOLI 710) EMPHASIZING REASONABELNESS OF LIBYAN
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STAND.

2. QADHAFI REJECTED INTERFERENCE BY THIRD PARTIES IN DISPUTE.
LIBYAN AND TUNISIANS SHOULD SETTLE MATTER AND TO THIS END FOR-
SEC TURAYKI HAD BEEN PREPARED TO GO TO TUNIS.
UNFORTUNATELY HOSTILE TUNISIAN MEDIA ATTACKS AGAINST LIBYA CREATED
ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS NOT POSSIBLE. ONLY WHEN

ATMOSPHERE IMPROVED COULD TURAYKI PROCEED. LIBYA, QADHAFI ADDED, WOULD NEVER USE ITS POWERFUL ARMED FORCES AGAINST BROTHER TUNISIANS BUT IF ATTACKED PEOPLES CONGRESS WOULD MAKE "APPROPRIATE DECISIONS". FINALLY QADHAFI OBSERVED THAT IF UNITY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OCCURRED THEY COULD SHARE EQUALLY IN ALL PETROLEUM RICHES.

3. AMONG OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS OF 20 HOUR DAY WAS IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF LIBYAN MILITARY MIGHT WHICH INCLUDED TANK FIELD EXERCISE (OF 30-40 TANKS) WITH LIVE FIRING AND LENGTHY PARADE. TANK (SOVIET T-54) MANEUVERS ACCORDING TO VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, A FORMER ARMORED FORCE OFFICIAL, DID NOT INDICATE HIGH PROFESSIONAL SKILLS. (ONE TANK NEARLY OVERRAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS). FOR LAYMEN AND PARTICULARLY LIBYANS, HOWEVER, IT WAS IMPRESSIVE. PARADE FEATURED ABOUT 100 TANKS, 20 TRUCK MOUNTED MULTIPLE ROCKETLAUNCHERS (SOVIET KALUSHINS) AND ONE INFANTRY BATTALION.

4. MILITARY DISPLAY (TELEVISED AND IN PRESENCE OF DIPLOMATS) PRECEDED QADHAFI SPEECH AND ALLOWED HIM TO EMPHASIZE LIBYAN MILITARY STRENGTH WHILE DENYING IT WOULD EVER BE USED AGAINST ARAB BROTHERS. WHILE MAINTAINING LIBYAN POSITON QADHAFI ACKNOWLEDGES THAT DISPUTE EXISTS. THOUGH REJECTING OUTSIDE "INTERFERENCE" HE SUGGESTS THAT LIBYA WOULD ABIDE BY AGREEMENT RACHED ON QUESTION BY COMPETENT "LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS."

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